(d) The expenditure incurred on establishment of E.D.P. Centres, purchase of computer hardware, software, peripherals and payments for data entry work is debited to Budget Head of Computerisation in the EPF Organisation. The informatioin relating to total expenditure in this regard, region-wise and year-wise, during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). Entry of data into computer is expected to be handled by the staff of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The outsider operators need to be deployed only if the work load cannot be accomplished in time by the EPF Organisation Staff. In such cases these operators are paid on per entry basis at rates fixed according to the prescribed procedure which can vary from place to place. The Employees' Provident Fund-Staff are also paid suitable incentives/ honorarium as per rules, if the data entering work is handled by them in addition to their regular job. No misuse of public money has been reported by the EPFO in ths regard.

Statement

Total expenditure incurred on computerisation in the EPF Organisation during the last 3 years, region-wise

S. No.	Region	Amount spent Rs. (In'000) during		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1199.83	1707.37	1426.19
2.	Bihar	—	847.76	192.08
3.	Delhi	193.09	2081.98	575.37
4.	Gujarat	—	1407.16	—
5.	Haryana	—	789.69	—
6.	Karnataka	261.04	1115.02	1759.66
7.	Kerala	123.50	1557.32	364.56
8.	Madhya Pradesh	978.51	547.40	529.11
9.	Maharashtra	2661.75	3319.04	2666.84
10.	N.E. Region	36.57	1060.59	131.83
11.	Orissa	181.08	674.55	71.03
12.	Punjab	1038.09	1236.62	34.44
13.	Rajasthan	430.41	920.35	80.91
14.	Tamil Nadu	1089.46	897.00	669.68
15.	Uttar Pradesh	—	795.27	40.76
16.	West Bengal	929.38	1715.02	899.63
17.	Central Office	76.97	5566.26	437.43
18.	NATRSS	874.13	—	—

Increase in wage ceiling and rates of contribution towards ESIC

*353. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently enhanced the extent of increase in the wage ceiling and rates of contribution towards the Employees' State Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, to what extent alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that most of the contributors are low paid employees;

(d) if so, whether Government have also raised the limit of bonus in favour of these low paid employees; and

(e) if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The Labour Minister's Conference of major states and ESIC have recommended enhancement of wage ceiling for coverage under the ESI Scheme from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month and also for enhancement of rates of contribution of the employers and the employees from the existing 4% to 4.75% and from 1.5% to 1.75% of the monthly wage respectively. Current rates of contribution are in force since 1.4.1992. Prior to this date the rates of contribution for employers and the employees were 5% and 2.5% respectively. For carrying out necessary amendments in the ESI (Central) Rules 1950, the notification inviting objection/ suggestions has been issued as per provisions of ESI Act, 1948.

The Payment of Bouns Act was amended only recently *i.e.* 30.8.95 so as to enhance the eligibility wage ceiling from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- per month and calculation ceiling from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 2500/- per month with effect from 1.4.1993.

Recommendations of Abid Hussain Expert Committee

*354. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of the recommendations of Dr. Abid Hussain Expert Committee on SSI and tiny Sectors?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): The Expert Committee on Small Enterprises under the Chairmanship of Dr. Abid Hussain has not yet submitted the report to the Government.

Sick PSUs in Karnataka

*355. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings in Karnataka;

(b) the total accumulated losses of each of the undertakings;

(c) the reasons for these undertakings to become sick units;

(d) the steps taken to review these undertakings and make them profitable; and

(e) whether any undertakings are considered for privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The name of sick Central PSUs having their registered Office in the State of Karnataka together with their accumulated losses as on 31.3.95 are given below:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Accumulated losses
1.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	8.28
2.	NTC (APKK&M) Ltd.	286.42
3.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	205.58
4.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	149.56

(c) The reasons for sickness of these PSUs are enterprise specific. However, some of these are, excess manpower, old and obsolete Plants & Machinery, outdated technology, high interest burden, deep levels of gold mines, lack of orders etc.

(d) These sick industrial PSUs have been referred to BIFR for preparation of revival/rehabilitation packages. BIFR have registered them and appointed operating agencies for each PSU. Revival scheme has been approved by BIFR in case of Vignyan Industries Ltd. The draft scheme for revival of NTC(APKK&M) Ltd., is under consideration of concerned